

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANILA 02236 140823Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----140824Z 031205 /17
P 140603Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5979

S E C R E T MANILA 2236

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EXDIS

FOR HOLBROOKE FROM SULLIVAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MARR, RP
SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

REFS: (A) STATE 032203, (B) STATE 032626

1. REF B ASKS WHAT DOMESTIC PROBLEMS WILL KEEP GOP OCCUPIED
UNTIL APRIL 15 AND PRECLUDE EARLIER RESUMPTION OF
NEGOTIATIONS ON U.S. BASES.

2. FOREMOST AMONG PROBLEMS WILL BE GOP EFFORTS SETTLE
MUSLIM SECESSION. CURRENT SCHEDULE CALLS FOR PLEBISCITE
NEXT WEEK IN MUSLIM PROVINCES, CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS
IN LIBYA BY MARCH 4, IMPLEMENTATION OF AUTONOMY BY APRIL 7,
AND VISIT BY QADHAFI AT THAT TIME. THIS SCHEDULE IS MOST
AMBITIOUS AND COULD SLIP BY AT LEAST ONE MONTH.

3. IN ADDITION TO MUSLIM PROBLEM, THERE IS MARCOS PLAN TO
CONVERT CURRENT "LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL" INTO AN "INTERIM
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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY," A MOVE WHICH WOULD PROBABLY PERMIT
HIM TO "END" MARTIAL LAW AND RULE BY DECREE UNDER THE NEW
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS "APPROVED" IN OCTOBER 16
PLEBISCITE. NO RPT NO FIRM SCHEDULE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED
FOR THIS MANEUVER, BUT MARCOS HAS LEFT IMPRESSION HE WOULD
LIKE TO EXECUTE IT SHORTLY AFTER COMPLETION OF MUSLIM
ARRANGEMENTS.

4. BEYOND THESE TWO EXERCISES, THERE IS POSSIBILITY MARCOS MAY WISH WIND UP TRIALS OF AQUINO, LOPEZ, OSMENA, ET ALS, HAVE THEM SENTENCED, PARDONED, EXILED, OR WHATEVER HE MAY DECIDE TO DO WITH THEM, IN ORDER TO WIPE HIS SLATE CLEAN OF POLITICAL PRISONER CHARGE. THIS ACTION COULD ALSO TAKE PLACE THIS SPRING.

5. FINALLY, THERE IS MARCOS PLAN TO MAKE STATE VISIT TO JAPAN IN LATE SPRING OR EARLY SUMMER. THIS, PLUS ALL THE OTHER ACTIVITIES OUTLINED ABOVE, WOULD BE INTENDED MAKE HIM ELIGIBLE FOR STATE VISIT TO U.S., WHICH HE MAY WISH TO PURSUE IN LATE SUMMER. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE WOULD LIKE THIS AS PRELUDE TO NEW BASE NEGOTIATIONS OR AS CLIMAX TO THEIR COMPLETION.

6. IN ANY EVENT, I WAS MORE THAN A LITTLE SURPRISED TO NOTE YOUR OFFER TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS IN MID-MARCH. NOT ONLY WOULD MARCOS NOT BE READY, BUT I WONDER HOW U.S. CAN BE READY, UNLESS WE MERELY INTEND TO PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF IN SEPTEMBER. IN MY VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS TO YOU AND HABIB, I HAVE STRESSED NEED FOR NEW APPROACH, WHICH WILL BREAK AWAY FROM MILITARY AID PROGRAMS AND ACCEPT CASH RENTAL AS SUBSTANCE OF OUR QUID. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT SUCH A DEPARTURE WILL TAKE TIME TO CONSOLIDATE IN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES BEFORE WE CAN MOVE.

7. IF, ON OTHER HAND, WASHINGTON INTENTION IS MERELY TO MOVE AHEAD ON THE PREVIOUS GAME PLAN, THEN I WOULD
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RECOMMEND LONGEST POSSIBLE DELAY, SINCE I DOUBT SUCH APPROACH WILL SUCCEED IN ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT.

8. I WOULD APPRECIATE AN INDICATION OF YOUR SUBSTANTIVE INTENTIONS AS WELL AS YOUR VIEWS ON TIMING.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, MILITARY BASES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA02236
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770051-0794
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770245/aaaabnid.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a6f66dc7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: 77 STATE 32203, 77 STATE 32626
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3329063
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHILIPPINE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, MARR, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a6f66dc7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009